Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph on page 12, line 11 to page 13, line 8 as follows:

Figure 7 shows the tube end 21 of tube section 2, with partially inserted monolith packet 17 for explaining the starting phase of the pressing-in operation. The bottom half of the Figure illustrates the problems that can occur with a gap 6 with relatively small gap measure 8a. In the starting phase of the pressing-in operation, in which the monolith packet 17 is not yet completely inserted or is only slightly inserted into the tube section 2, the monolith 1a is surrounded only loosely by the positioning mat 7. If a narrow gap space 6 exists between the monolith 1a and the inside surface 5 of tube section 2, the positioning mat 7 encounters such a high resistance upon entering the tube section 2 that it remains behind as the monolith 1a is pushed forward in pressing direction 18, so that finally only the monolith is inserted into the tube section 2. However, if, as shown in the top half of Figure 7, the longitudinal section 9 that adjoins the tube end 21 has a larger inside cross-sectional surface and a ~~larger clear width~~ diameter 12, the positioning mat 7 is accordingly compressed less. The frictional resistance between the inside surface region 5a of the longitudinal section 9 and the positioning mat 7 is also correspondingly smaller. The final compression of the positioning mat 7 occurs after a region of the monolith packet, which corresponds to the length of section 9, has already been inserted into the tube section 2. The positioning mat 7 is then clamped down or stabilized in this region, such that a pushing back of the positioning mat during the transition to the narrowed gap with its smaller gap measure 8a is practically impossible, as can be seen in Figure 7.